

## WAR STORIES.

## Gen. M. C. Butler Corrected.

Editors Intelligencer: On reading Gen. Butler's address, delivered before the General Assembly in Memorial Session Jan. 23, 1903, I wish to correct some statements therein, to wit—he says:

"In the spring of 1862 the Legion, as a separate organization, was broken up, etc. Gen. Hampton's commission as Colonel in the Confederate army was dated July 12, 1861. On the 23rd of May, 1862, he was made Brigadier General and assigned to the temporary command of an infantry brigade, composed of the Hampton Legion—eight companies—the 14th and 19th Ga., and 16th North Carolina regiments. He remained in command of the First Cavalry Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia," etc.

Col. Wade Hampton, as I remember it, was in command of the aforesaid brigade, to wit: The Hampton Legion, (7 companies) the 14th and 19th Georgia, and the 6th (not the 16th) N. C., infantry at Fredericksburg, Va., the 5th day of April, 1862, when I joined that gallant band (Col. D. Hampton Legion,) and continued in command of the same until the Seven Pines battle, where he was wounded in the foot or leg. A day or two after the battle of Seven Pines the Hampton Legion (7 companies, not 8,) was reorganized and Capt. M. W. Gary was elected Lieut. Colonel and J. Harvey Dingle Major and the Legion was put in the Texas (Hood's) Brigade, with the 1st, 4th and 5th Texas and 18th Georgia regiments. After the seven days battles around Richmond were fought, Capt. Palmer's company from Charleston was added to the Legion, making the 8th Co. ("H"). So you see that Gen. Hampton was not in command of the brigade as stated by Gen. Butler until the fall of 1862. The Hampton Legion infantry, to my certain knowledge, was in Hood's Texas brigade from and after a few days after the Seven Pines battle until about the first of Nov., 1862, when the Legion was consolidated with the remnant of the old 4th S. C., thrown into two companies ("I" and "K") and put in Jenkins' brigade at Culpepper Court House. Gen. Butler not being in immediate touch with the infantry part of the Legion does not remember it correctly, but being all this time with the Legion myself I know the above to be correct to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

Another thing I want to ask: Am I one of the "Red Bones" of Northwestern South Carolina? I see in the Intelligencer something from Lewis Marshall, of Charleston, S. C., to the Washington Star, about a "peculiar people" in the northwestern part of South Carolina—"the most peculiar people in the United States," known as "Red Bones," and that a company of them belonged to the Hampton Legion in the Confederate army, etc. Now, Co. D, Hampton Legion, was the only company raised in this part of the State, and if we are the "red bone, peculiar people" mentioned, we have been ignorant of this fact for a long time. Co. "D" was raised in Anderson, Pickens and Greenville Counties, and I suppose we are the "red bones" referred to, as we were the only company raised in the northwestern section of the State. He says: "They are very clannish, mix very little with people not of their race, and in a manner are quite thrifty. I am of the opinion that they are descendants of the Basques, of Southern France. They do not lack courage, for a company of them served in Hampton's Legion during the late Civil War, and bore themselves bravely at the first Manassas," and so on. Now, if Company "D," Hampton Legion, is not this "peculiar red bone people" who are they? But the only man in Co. D who had any French blood in him, to my knowledge, was John J. Riley, and his father was Irish and his mother was French. He was named John Jerome—Irish, and his brother Philip De Narrie—French. So you see, Mr. Editor, if we are this "red bone peculiar people" we want to know it; but one thing certain the most of the company were of Scotch, Irish, German and English descent.

Very truly,  
Wm. F. Lee,  
Co. D, Hampton Legion.

Postscript—About the retreat from Yorktown, I wish to state that Hampton's brigade brought up the rear of Johnson's army from Yorktown to Williamsburg, with Hampton Legion cavalry, commanded by Major, afterwards Gen. M. C. Butler, immediately in front of the enemy. The cavalry had a heavy skirmish with the advance guard of McClellan's army between Yorktown and Williamsburg, in which Bozelli Boggs, of the Brooks troops, (father of our present Sollici-

tor, Julius E. Boggs,) was killed. The battle of Williamsburg was fought on Sunday, 4th day of May, and the battle of West Point, or Eltham's landing, was fought by Hampton's and Hood's Texas brigade on the 7th day of May, and not vice versa, as Gen. Butler has stated it. Gen. Butler stating that the West Point battle was fought first.

W. F. L.  
Piedmont, S. C., Feb. 9, 1903.

## ORIGIN OF REVOLVER.

Firearm First Used in Battle with Mexicans.

"There is a romantic side to weapons of war," said an old army officer the other day. "The origin of our purely American arm, the Colt revolver, furnishes an instance that will illustrate this. It seems perfectly adapted to American frontier conditions. It has given its skillful wielders victory on many a hard fought field. And this is why its rise and development should be a part of our country's military history."

"In the thirties we were enlarging our national boundaries in the Southwest. We could not consistently develop in any other direction, for the country to the Northwest was not very desirable. We were looking for a region that was especially adapted to Southern products, to be cultivated by slave labor. The South was in the saddle, and meant to remain there if Southern blood and valor could accomplish it. The young and thriving Republic of Texas was the point toward which the attention of the region south of Mason and Dixon's line was turned. A handful of daring young Americans had wrested from Mexico a region five times the size of any State in the Union. It was then called the Republic of Texas."

"The State of Tennessee was primarily responsible for this daring step. Gen. Sam Houston had gathered together a daring band of young men full of hot-blooded courage. The blood of the pioneers that took Tennessee from the most warlike Indian tribe on this continent was in them. For a long time it was an up-hill fight. Not only the Mexicans, but the Comanches and Lipans—unequaled warriors and daring horsemen—harassed and raided the scattering frontier settlements and towns along the Texas border until it really appeared as if the entire scheme of the settlement of Texas must go down in blood."

"But the men who started in to do this work were not of the quitting kind. They were of that Tory-hating, Indian-fighting stock that obstacles did not daunt nor dangers quail. And they set their teeth hard and swore they would stay. To guard their frontier thoroughly and effectively they organized bands or companies of rangers, under officers who could not only fight Indians and Mexicans, but control and discipline their own men."

"Among the ablest of these commanders Col. Hays, better known as 'Jack' Hays, was undoubtedly the ablest. He was a born leader of men, just such men as were peopling that great Southwestern frontier. In stature he was about five feet eight and never weighed over 150 pounds. His hair was of a darkish brown, inclined to be red, and his eyes were of several colors, according to his methods. In his hours of relaxation and among his friends they were of a dark gray, with a hue of hazel. In excitement, and especially in a fight, they were of a color indescribable. They simply seemed to blaze."

"Some time in the later thirties Col. Hays was directed by the President of Texas to go to New York and purchase suitable arms to equip his troops. He had then about 150 men, but they were not uniformly armed and lacked equipment suitable for a mounted command. They needed to be equipped alike and with the very best weapons available at that time."

"So, in obedience to his orders and with a letter of credit on the treasurer of the Texan Republic, Hays took passage in a schooner that was bound for New York. He was a month in making the trip, for he started in September, when the Gulf is usually stormy and the prevailing winds are from the southwest and everywhere else. They were blown into nearly every port from Galveston northward before they got in sight of the island of Manhattan. Col. Hays went the rounds of the firearms dealers of New York. It was not a difficult undertaking, for there were but four or five of them. But he did not find anything that he had not seen before in the way of firearms."

"One day, however, a dealer said: 'There is a man living over in New Jersey at present who has just in-

vented a pistol which I would like to have you see.'

"What is there about it that makes it different from other pistols?" asked Col. Hays.

"Well, this, for one thing. It shoots six times without reloading."

"Col. Hays's interest was immediately aroused. 'Indeed, I'd like very much to see it,' said he."

"Very well, then, I'll have him in here with it to-morrow about this time," responded the dealer. So the next day, about 1 or 2 o'clock, the man came in. He was about 30 years old and chiefly a gunsmith by trade, though he did all sorts of work in fine steel. He said he had just concluded an order of sabres for officers of the regiment of dragoons just then being raised.

"This is my pistol, colonel," said he, opening a case and handing the weapon to the Texas colonel. "The instant I looked at it I said it was just what I wanted," said Hays to his brother, Gen. Harry Hays, of New Orleans. There was a sixty-foot gallery in the rear of the store for the testing of arms. They took the modern pistol, which was about like the Colt's pocket arm of to-day in size, calibre and weight, and the expert fired all six barrels off in less than a minute. The penetration was good, as was the accuracy.

"Now, I want a pistol of this pattern, but with a longer cylinder, an eight-inch long barrel, taking a bullet of about fifty grains weight, made as soon as you can make it. I will advance you \$50 on it now to enable you to purchase the material and have the barrels rifled. If the pistol shoots as well as I think it will I will talk to you about a contract for 100 of them and also about a rifle on the same principle."

"In two weeks the pistol was ready to be tested. It shot very well, with sufficient force to kill if it hit a man at from 100 to 150 yards distance. At the same time a rifle was constructed on the same principle. It was about 0.44 calibre, with a cylinder that would contain about eighty grains of powder and carried a round and an oblong bullet. The arm came up to Hays's expectation in all respects. He took the model to Texas with him and submitted it to his Rangers. When it had been thoroughly tested they ordered 100 of the pistols and 50 of the rifles. The latter were so constructed that when the cylinder was fired it could be slipped out, and another cylinder, already loaded, put into the arm in one time and two motions; that is, in thirty seconds."

"Shortly after the troop had been armed with these new weapons they were tried in a sharp fight that settled the question of their superiority over those of their Indian and Mexican antagonists once and for all. About 600 or 700 Mexicans and Comanche and Lipan Indians crossed over into Texas, under the leadership of Canales, a noted 'raider' from the other side of the Rio Grande, and with a herd of about a thousand head of fat beef cattle, and perhaps 500 head of mules, were making their way back into Chihuahua, where Canales had a fine ranch and lived in princely style. He was one of the richest men in Northern Mexico and the ablest soldier in that section."

"The 200 lancers with him charged Hays's men fearlessly. Hays let them come on until they were in good, easy range, and then opened up on them with his fifty rifles. After the first volley Canales thought he had the Americans foul. 'Meurra las Americanos!' he shouted, as he dashed at the little band of intrepid Rangers, commanded by Ned Burleson, one of Hays's most trusted lieutenants. Crash, crash, crash, went the rifles."

"Por Dios, what sort of a rifle have these devils of Americans," they shouted to one another, as, leaving the stolen cattle and about one-sixth of their command dead or badly wounded on the ground in the hands of the dreaded Americans, they struck out for the Rio Grande and the other side. Hays had captured a priest, and he sent him after his comrades with orders to tell Canales to send an escort and wagons enough to carry away all the wounded that were able to be moved. It was soon reported all along the border that las Americanos had a dreadful rifle, that they used by magic of some sort, which would shoot as long as they wished without reloading."

"Canales offered a great reward for one of these new guns. He was a well educated man and realized at once that the Americans had some sort of arm that was not generally known, and was vastly superior in rapidity of fire and reloading to any then in use. It was nearly two years, however, before he could get his hands on one of them. Col. Samuel Colt had pledged himself not to furnish his new arm to any but Americans and men who would not suffer it to get into the wrong hands."

"The United States army, particularly the three mounted regiments then in service, the 1st and 2nd regiments of dragoons, and the Mounted Rifles were equipped with Colt's revolving pistols as soon as the ordnance bureau of the war department could be persuaded to adopt them. It is a

curious feature of our ordnance office that it is always the very last of the military establishments to see any merit in any invention that does not emanate from some member of its corps. That used to be the invariable rule, but it has been a good deal modified in late years, with the invention and adoption by other nations of warlike instruments that were American invention and plan."

"The renown of the famous American pistol soon spread all over Europe. Russia was the first country to give Colt a big order, and this it did sufficiently to take three years in its completion. When the Crimean war began the English and French found, to their amazement, that the Russian Guard cavalry and some of the picked mounted regiments of the line were armed with a pistol and carbine far exceeding that in the hands of the allied armies of England, France and Turkey, and to-day, in spite of the multiplicity of inventions, nothing superior has ever been devised."—Washington Post.

## Seven Years to dig Canal.

Washington, February 7.—"With good luck we ought to finish the Panama in seven years," said a high Government authority officially interested in the enterprise yesterday. "The task may require as much as ten years for its completion. It depends largely upon the health of the laborers employed. An epidemic of bubonic plague or cholera might put us back a good deal."

"Such a misfortune is exactly what we shall take most pains to avoid, however. We shall control everything on the strip, which will be in future, to all intents and purposes, a part of the United States; and our first care will be to fix matters as we want them in a sanitary way. We shall clean up things just as we did in Cuba, establishing proper drainage, insuring plentiful supplies of pure water and making cleanliness compulsory in the towns along the route of the canal. The French company has a fine hospital that cost over a million dollars which will be transferred to us with the rest of its property."

"We shall employ about 30,000 workmen on the canal as soon as we get things fairly started, and this army of laborers will be drawn mainly from Jamaica and other West Indian islands. It has been urged that we might utilize a few thousands of our Southern negroes on the job, but such a plan would not be likely to work satisfactorily. Colored folks from the cotton States might suffer from the climate of the tropics and they are not accustomed to live as cheaply and simply as the darkies of the West Indies."

"Probably the work will be given out to contractors, who will hire the requisite workmen at 50 or 60 cents a day, which is about what labor is worth at that part of the world. The contractors will give bonds to the island governments to care for the negroes properly at the end of a specified time. The laborers will be fetched to the port of Colon by steamers, disembarked and assigned in gangs, under gang bosses, to various points along the line of the canal. Work will be carried on in all parts of the ditch simultaneously in order to bring the enterprise to completion as quickly as possible."

"It should be realized that the problem presented by the Panama Canal is altogether different from that which would have demanded solution in Nicaragua. If the latter route had been chosen the work would have had to begin with the clearing away of forests and the grubbing of stumps—in short, the opening of a virgin tract of country, with a multitude of difficulties to be overcome as a preliminary to the excavation of the ditch. At Panama on the other hand, everything is cleaned up; the canal is already half dug—accurately speaking, about 30 per cent of the necessary digging has been accomplished—and we have only to take up the task where the French people have left off."

"We are thus enabled a start at once and without the long delay which would have been unavoidable in Nicaragua. Even the machinery and other apparatus—much of it, at all events—is on hand. As yet it is impossible to say what the machinery is worth; our experts did not take it into account in their estimate of the value of the French company's property and all of it will have to be overhauled and examined. A great deal of it is antiquated, undoubtedly, but much of it is good stuff."

"There are a great many locomotives, nearly all of them brand new—I think not less than forty-five or fifty—which are valuable assets and represent a lot of money. Then there is a great number of machines, such as steam shovels and dredges, for excavating and carriers for removing earth. There are thousands of dump cars and miles of portable railway tracks, which can be picked up from one place and laid down off-hand in another."

"Xerxes once employed a million soldiers in the making of a canal, but those were days when digging was done by hand with spade and pickaxe. In

these modern times such work is accomplished by machinery. Steam shovels pick up the earth, which is conveyed by trolley carriers to cars and transported with the help of locomotives to convenient places, where it is dumped. Where rock has to be removed blasting is done, of course; but fortunately there is very little rock to be excavated along the Panama route."

"Necessarily a great deal of expensive machinery will have to be purchased. Much of the apparatus now on hand must go to the scrap heap to be replaced with the newest and most up-to-date machines. With American energy and unlimited funds behind the enterprise the digging of the canal will be carried forward with great rapidity. It is even now in progress, in a sort of fashion, about 1,500 laborers in the employ of the French company being engaged on the work."

"The estimated cost of completing the ditch is \$144,000,000. It will be forty-seven miles in length, though the isthmus is only forty miles wide, the route traversed being far from straight. The bottom width of the canal will be 150 feet, its width at the top varying with the formation. Where it passes through rock, of course, its sides will be steeper than where the banks are of earth. The depth of the water will be 35 feet throughout, so as to allow for the passage of the largest freight steamers, and there will be five twin locks built of solid masonry."

"The deepest cut to be made will not be much over 300 feet above sea level at the highest point. By the help of the locks ships will be lifted up the requisite 90 feet on one side of the isthmus and lowered again to the level of the ocean on the other side. The locks will be twins in order that, when one of them needs repairs navigation may not be interrupted."

"It is estimated that about 5,000,000 tons of freight will pass through the canal during the first year after it is opened and that there will be a steady increase in the traffic thereafter. Tolls will be low—not more than \$1 a ton, I should say. Uncle Sam will not be anxious to make money out of the enterprise; and it is hardly necessary to say that everything about this great public work will be done on a scale of liberality. Every modern improvement will be introduced—even to the lighting of the ditch throughout its entire length with electricity furnished by water-power."—Rene Bache.

## Imagination Principally.

Friends of Hugh McLaughlin, leader of the Kings county Democracy, are laughing over one of his practical jokes, says the New York Journal. The veteran had a sore throat recently and was using tablets composed of ill-tasting drugs coated with sugar. Assemblyman McKeown came in and saw the tablets strewn about on McLaughlin's desk. McKeown reached for one and McLaughlin watched him chew it until his face paled.

"What is the matter, John?" asked McLaughlin. "Have you been eating those poisonous gumdrops that I prepared for the rats in the auction rooms?"

"Were they poisonous, Mr Mac?" queried McKeown anxiously. "Sure," said McLaughlin. "You better get some medicine, and I'll telephone for an ambulance."

McKeown rushed to a drugstore, got medicine, returned to the auction rooms and sat down to await the ambulance. He became so nervous over the delay in the arrival of the ambulance that McLaughlin, fearing prostration, revealed the joke.

## A Quart Baby.

Now and again there is an item in the newspapers concerning the birth of a puny baby so small that a quart cup holds it comfortably. If the article told all the facts it would probably tell also of a mother who in weakness and misery had looked forward to the baby's advent with shrinking and fear.

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